

In the final days of the campaign, three newspapers that had endorsed McCain were booted from the Obama campaign bus. The New York Post, Dallas Morning News, and Washington Times were unceremoniously shown the door only days after their papers' endorsements appeared. Obama campaign officials claimed the move was to make room for more important media outlets: Jet and Ebony entertainment magazines. Both publications were publishing fawning coverage of Obama.

Those heartened by the hope that a President Obama would be more tolerant of critics and criticism than a candidate Obama had their expectations dashed. In only his third full day as the 44th president Obama personally went on the offensive against a media personality. On January 23rd, Obama warned Congressional Republicans against listening to Rush Limbaugh. The man who offered to sit down with Holocaust denier and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad without any preconditions whatsoever views an American radio talk show host as a dangerous threat.

In precedent-setting action, Obama moved his director of political affairs, a highly partisan post, from the Old Executive Office Building into the West Wing. Political operative Patrick Gaspard was given White House access not experienced by his predecessors. Obama official Shauna Daly, a non-lawyer and career opposition researcher described as a "partisan dirt-digger," was assigned to the White House counsel office. The move signals not only a new low in partisan activities, but suggests the office assignment may be intended to hide Daly's political activities under the guise of the counsel's attorney-client privileges.

What America witnessed before the election and mere hours after Obama was sworn into office is just a sampling of what Americans can likely expect throughout an Obama presidency. One cannot help but reach the conclusion an Obama Enemies List is already being compiled and free speech restrictions are being considered. Fortunately for Obama he has no shortage of Congressional foot soldiers to help in his cause to muzzle critics and silence news outlets that refuse to adhere to Democratic talking points that are faxed directly into the network newscast teleprompters.

On Election Day, Senator Chuck Schumer likened conservative talk radio to pornography and argued it should be regulated. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi endorsed speech restrictions more than once during the election season. Senators Harry Reid, Dick Durbin and John Kerry have also advocated various limits to political speech. Senator Debbie Stabenow assured a liberal radio talk show host that regulating conservative speech is imminent. House Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman is reportedly working on speech restrictions with acting FCC Chairman Michael Copps.

Imagine the gross violations against political speech that may very well occur when there are no checks and balances from a sycophantic Congress and there is complicity from the national news gatekeepers. The public may be very surprised at the lengths the Obama Administration may pursue to silence critics. Moreover, the self-anointed Praetorian Guard of the First Amendment will conveniently develop a case of amnesia regarding on which side of the debate they fall when it comes to press freedoms. Do not expect to see the New York Times editorialize against Obama and the Congress when it comes to protecting free speech rights aside from its own and that of like-minded, liberally-biased press outlets.

The Clinton White House had its own enemies list and engaged in dirty practices

that clearly broke the law. Clinton enemies audited by the IRS included Paula Jones, Juanita Broaddrick, Gennifer Flowers, White House Travel Officer Director Billy Dale and the independent watchdog group, Judicial Watch, just to name a few.

Early in Clinton's first term, staffers improperly squirreled away more than 400 FBI files on prominent Republicans. This gave the Clintons access to confidential information on key Republicans they viewed as political threats.

Just weeks after the Monica Lewinsky broke in early 1998, then-Deputy Attorney General (and current Attorney General) Eric Holder engineered a federal grand jury investigation of *The American Spectator*. The magazine had long been a very successful critic of both Clintons, having broken several stories embarrassing for the President and First Lady. Fourteen months later, the federal prosecutor dropped the probe without filing any criminal charges. The probe may have achieved its purpose as it nearly bankrupted the magazine.

Much has been made by the political left of Richard Nixon's infamous enemies list. The reality is while there was a Nixon's enemies list most of the names were those who did not receive presidential Christmas cards or White House reception invitations. This was a hardship that even the most vulnerable in American society could easily withstand.

The heavy-handed actions against Obama critics and opponents that occurred before he had government institutions firmly under his control should have had public interest watchdog groups up in arms. Because so many of such groups are ideologically aligned with Obama may explain why there was not even a peep. Conservative and balanced news outlets have the disturbing habit of holding accountable liberal public interest organizations that engage in dishonest or deceptive practices that the major news organizations just so happen to overlook.

How soon and how far the Obama Administration will extend its attacks against its critics and the political opposition may become evident in the days ahead. Spared any serious scrutiny by most news outlets during his very brief career in public office, Barack Obama has displayed an exceptionally thin skin when he has come under a microscope or when he has suffered political and public relations setbacks.

THE CLAIMS

"I'm very pleased that (Democratic leaders) will be talking, too, about the immoral profits being made by the insurance industry and how those profits have increased in the Bush years."—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who also welcomed the attention being drawn to insurers' "obscene profits."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONTROLLING THE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGALLS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INGALLS. Madam Speaker, we are looking at some scary numbers. Just in time for Halloween, we have the budget deficit numbers in; \$1.42 trillion for

this year and an accumulated debt of \$13 trillion.

Now, this has happened before. We have been in a spot before with historical debt levels shown here on this chart. You can see after World War II we actually reached nearly 110 percent of GDP. Our debt was nearly 110 percent of GDP. But, as you can see, it has gone down, and now it is trending way high.

There is a big difference between this historical debt and the debt that we are experiencing now, because the question is: Who did we owe it to? After World War II, we owed 95 percent of the debt to ourselves. The U.S. public held 95 percent of the United States debt in 1945. Today, in 2009, only 54 percent is held by the U.S. public. China is holding 11 percent, and other foreign countries are holding 35 percent. So nearly 50 percent of our debt is owed to other countries. It is quite different than the scenario after World War II.

It is a shame, Madam Speaker, that we didn't adopt the more significant budget cuts of the Republican Study Committee budgets. Had we done that over the last 5 years, we would now be looking at \$613 billion less in spending. We would have saved \$613 billion by enacting those most conservative budgets offered on this House floor.

If this keeps up, what we have got now is government spending now as a percentage of GDP, as you can see here under the Obama approach, fiscal year 2010 budget, with the out years being reflected in the long-term fiscal scenario of CBO, you can see that government spending as a percentage of GDP actually rises to nearly 50 percent, 50 percent of GDP being government spending. Under the Republican alternatives, you can see that we trend down after this most recent uptick, and we get down to the level of somewhere around 18 percent of GDP as a percentage of government spending.

Madam Speaker, I am here to say to my colleagues that we must do something. These are scary numbers, and we have got to act.

The key is to get to fiscal restraint and economic growth. Those things have to happen simultaneously. You do that by keeping taxes low, keeping regulation light, and getting litigation down. You do that by making wise energy policy that makes it so that energy can be the new tech boom that leads us out of the current recession.

I happen to believe that the road to recovery and the road to energy independence are one and the same. If we get on that road, we can lead our way out of this recession.

I happen to believe, too, that the upstate of South Carolina has a lot to offer in paving that road, making it so we can get to balanced budgets by economic growth and fiscal restraint, and improve the national security of the United States by breaking this addiction to oil, by finding these new sources of energy and making it so we can create jobs.